

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A mixture of compounds represented by formula (I):

$$R^1 \cdot [(AO)_n \cdot R^2]_m \quad (I)$$

where:

R^1 independently represents the residue of a group having at least m active hydrogen atoms in hydroxyl groups;

AO independently represents an alkylene oxide residue;

each n is independently from 2 to 50 and the total of all the indices is from 10 to 300;

m is from 3 to 10; and

R^2 independently represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_{21} hydrocarbyl, or an acyl group $-OC.R^3$, where R^3 represents a C_1 to C_{21} hydrocarbyl group;

wherein on average at least 1.2 of the R^2 groups per compound-molecule is or comprises a C_4 to C_{21} hydrocarbyl group comprising at least two ethylenic double bonds.

24. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, wherein R^1 independently represents the residue of a sugar.

25. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 24, wherein the sugar is a monosaccharide.

26. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, wherein R^1 independently represents the residue of sorbitol.

27. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, wherein m is from 4 to 10.

28. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, comprising in the range from 3 to 10 R² acyl groups.

29. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, wherein the hydrocarbyl group comprising at least two ethylenic double bonds is derived from linoleic acid.

30. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, wherein the average number of double bonds present in the hydrocarbyl group comprising at least two double bonds is in the range from 2.0 to 2.4.

31. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, wherein the ratio of R² groups comprising hydrocarbyl groups comprising at least two ethylenic double bonds to hydrocarbyl groups not comprising at least two ethylenic double bonds is on average in the range from 0.7:1 to 6:1.

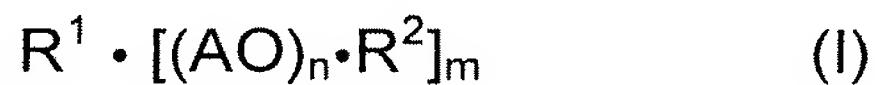
32. (Previously Presented) The mixture of compounds of claim 23, having an iodine value in the range from 45 to 75 g/100 g.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of forming the mixture of compounds of claim 23, comprising:

reacting a fatty acid or derivative thereof having an iodine value in the range from 100 to 250 g/100 g with an alkoxylated R¹ group.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the fatty acid is a mixture comprising at least 40 mole % of fatty acids comprising at least two ethylenic double bonds.

35. (Currently Amended) An aqueous emulsion or dispersion of polymeric particles, comprising a mixture of surfactant compounds represented by formula (I):



where:

R^1 independently represents the residue of a group having at least m active hydrogen atoms in hydroxyl groups;

AO independently represents an alkylene oxide residue;

each n is independently from 2 to 50 and the total of all the indices is from 10 to 300;

m is from 3 to 10; and

R^2 independently represents a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_{21} hydrocarbyl, or an acyl group $-OC.R^3$, where R^3 represents a C_1 to C_{21} hydrocarbyl group;

wherein on average at least 1.2 of the R^2 groups per compound-molecule is or comprises a C_4 to C_{21} hydrocarbyl group comprising at least two ethylenic double bonds.

36. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsion or dispersion of polymeric particles of claim 35, wherein the emulsion or dispersion is formed in the presence of a stabilising amount of a mixture of compounds represented by formula (I).

37. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsion or dispersion of polymeric particles of claim 35, wherein the polymeric particles comprise an alkyd resin.

38. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsion or dispersion of claim 37, wherein the alkyd resin is a resin which is the reaction product of:

- i) one or more polybasic organic acids or anhydrides; or
- ii) one or more polyhydric alcohols and one or more monobasic fatty acids or one or more triglycerides.

39. (Previously Presented) An aqueous emulsion of an alkyd resin, comprising:

- i) an emulsifier, comprising a mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) of claim 23; and
- ii) an anionic surfactant, comprising an alkyl ether carboxylate, an alkyl aryl sulphonate, a phosphate ester, an alkyl ether sulfate, or a mixture of at least two such anionic surfactants;

wherein the weight ratio of the mixture of compounds to anionic surfactant is in the range 90:10 to 10:90.

40. (Previously Presented) A method of making an aqueous emulsion of an alkyd resin, comprising:

- i) forming a mixture of the resin and surfactant, including a mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) of claim 23;
- ii) including water in the mixture to form a water-in-oil (resin) emulsion;
- iii) subsequently adding water to the water-in-oil (resin) emulsion at least until the emulsion inverts to form an oil(resin)-in-water emulsion; and optionally
- iv) adding further water to adjust the disperse phase content of the emulsion to that desired.

41. (Previously Presented) A paint, comprising:

- (1) an aqueous or mixed aqueous organic continuous phase;
- (2) an alkyd resin emulsion discontinuous phase;
- (3) an emulsifier, comprising a mixture of compounds represented by formula (I) of claim 23; and
- (4) at least one pigment.